**A Glimpse into the Life of Haridasa Thakur**

**First Villager:** Oh my dear friend, we are indeed fortunate to be getting the association of a great soul like Thakur Haridasa!

**Second Villager:** Yes, his words today have softened my heart. I see him, a Muslim by birth and born in this province - he has taken up the Vaisnava religion cent per cent! He is chanting the Hare Krsna Mahamantra almost 24 hours a day and exhibiting such love for Krsna - sometimes crying, sometimes dancing, sometimes being stunned ...

**First Villager:** Yes, and also he exhibits the renunciation of a real sadhu, a holy man. He is living only in this cave yet people come with great difficulty from miles around to hear from him!

**Second Villager:** Yes. Actually, there are many questions about my own developing faith in Krsna Consciousness that I would like to ask him but he has already gone into his cave. Will you come with me? I will just ask him what my next step should be in Self Realization.

**First Villager:** Yes, come on. What is that smell!?

**Second Villager:** I don't know but it seems to be coming from the cave.

**First Villager:** I do not like to say this, but I think it is the venom of a serpent. My uncle taught me to recognize it. The odor is so strong that entrance into the cave seems practically impossible.

**Second Villager:** But what about the Thakur? What if he is in danger? Please, let us go inside to see what is the matter!

**First Villager:** Just see, on that ledge above the Sadhu, there is a very large Cobra! **(to Haridasa Thakur)** My dear Namacharya, on behalf of all the townspeople and myself, I must ask you to leave this cave at once! There is a great snake living within this very cave and we are afraid for your life.

**Haridasa Thakur:** A snake living within this cave?

**First Villager:** Yes, Your Holiness! The odor of his venom, is permeating the entire atmosphere. Can't you smell it?

**Haridasa Thakur:** I had not noticed it before now.

**Second Villager:** Please come away before something disastrous happens! I will see that a suitable ashram is built for you!

**Haridasa Thakur:** My dear well-wishers, there is no need to make extra endeavor to save this temporary body which is doomed for ultimate destruction. The Supreme Lord, Sri Krsna, is always taking care of His fully surrendered devotees. Such devotees are never without complete protection, even though they may appear to be living alone without any help. But if your minds are feeling distress because of my situation, then please come back tomorrow. Right now, I need to finish my prescribed number of rounds. If the odor has not disappeared by this time tomorrow, then I will agree to go, just to please you.

**Second Villager:** Very well, Sadhu-ji, we will return to you again tomorrow. **(villagers leave cave)**

**First Villager:** Hey, look here! The serpent is quitting the cave!

**Second Villager:** What Haridasa said was true! The Lord Hari is protecting him. There was never any danger because the Lord is situated in the heart of everyone as the Supersoul, even in the heart of a serpent. Just to show respect to the saintly person, Haridasa Thakur, this serpent is quitting this place so as not to disturb him.

**First Villager:** Jai, we have so much to learn in Krsna Consciousness. Let us have kirtana together on the way home.
**(they sing the Hare Krsna Mahamantra)**